



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.
C-14

For the meeting of: June 2, 2015

Date: May 21, 2015
To: Board of Supervisors
From: William Damiano, Chief Probation Officer
Subject: Equine Assisted Growth and Learning for AB109 Offenders and Supplemental Budget for budget unit 294 (4/5 Vote Required)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors approve the attached supplemental budget for the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning pilot program designed for AB109 offenders. This supplemental budget impacts the contract services line in budget unit 294. All expenses related to this pilot program will be paid from fiscal year 2014/15.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Humboldt County 2011 Public Safety Realignment Funding

DISCUSSION:

The Humboldt County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Executive Committee entertained a request for \$9,000 in funding for this pilot program at their March 18, 2015

Prepared by Elisha Hardison 268-3304 CAO Approval *Cheryl Dillingham*

REVIEW: Auditor *MBM* County Counsel *MAD* Human Resources *DA* Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:
 Consent
 Departmental
 Public Hearing
 Other _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____
Meeting of: 1/10/12 H1 _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor *Sundberg* Seconded by Supervisor *Bass*
Ayes *Sundberg, Lovelace, Fennell, Bass*
Nays _____
Abstain _____
Absent *Bohn*

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: *June 11, 2015*
By: *Kathy Hayes*
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

meeting and voted to recommend the Board approve the request. The program has potential to reduce an offender's likelihood to reoffend, thereby increasing public safety. This is an augmentation to the existing local Community Corrections Plan required under AB109 (2011) and, as such, is only considered accepted by a 4/5 vote of the Board.

This is a pilot for offenders on specialized AB109 caseloads who are at high risk to re-offend. The Program will address specific criminal behaviors and criminal thinking, utilizing Equine Assisted Growth and Learning. The vendors are a collaboration of several local, Certified Equine Assisted Growth Professionals in this area who have come together to provide this service.

Siskiyou and Modesto Counties currently utilize this modality to augment other corrections interventions to assist offenders in recognizing behaviors that potentially place the community, their families and themselves at risk. Preliminary outcomes in those counties are promising in that they have observed reductions in recidivism in participants as compared to non-participants.

The program consists of sixteen 2 ½ hour sessions. The cognitive-behavioral intervention focuses on increasing several key competencies including: development of respect for boundaries, compassion, frustration tolerance, culpability, life skills, peer pressure, self-esteem, a sense of accomplishment, honesty and empathy. The intervention also focuses on decreasing: manipulation, bullying, aggression and criminal/antisocial thinking patterns.

The number of participants for this introductory program should range from 12 to 15 individuals. Documentation of activities and their focus, as well as outcomes for each session will be provided to the CCP Executive Committee for evaluation of feasibility and effectiveness in Humboldt County. Should the project have positive results, the CCP Executive Committee will evaluate further contracting for these services and return to the Board, if appropriate, for additional supplemental funding for contract services.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no County General Fund impact with this proposal; the cost for this pilot program would be completely covered by County 2011 Public Safety Realignment Funding. The attached supplemental budget would increase contract services for fund 1100, budget unit 294, in order to cover the proposed intervention services as well as space rental and insurance for participants. It is anticipated that the entire \$9,000 for this pilot program will be expended in fiscal year 2014/15. As stated in the discussion portion of this agenda, this is a pilot program only and will be evaluated upon conclusion; as such, the funding is being requested as a one-time expense.

This program seeks to address the following objectives of Board's Core Strategic Framework: Create opportunities for improved safety and health; encourage new local enterprise; partner to promote quality services to facilitate public/private partnerships to solve problems. This item is also in keeping with prior Board direction to the CCP Executive Committee to support local community based organizations with AB109 funding to provide corrections interventions.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Redwood Equine Partners

Healing Strides

Humboldt County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Executive Committee

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board of Supervisors may choose not to approve the supplemental budget for this pilot program however that is not recommended. The potential for reducing recidivism and improving public safety is a sound investment and worthy of investigating with this pilot program.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Supplemental Budget for Budget Unit 294
2. Equine Assisted Growth and Learning pilot request and budget

ATTACHMENT 1

**FY 2014/15
SUPPLEMENT BUDGET
BUDGET UNIT 294
PUBLIC SAFETY REALIGNMENT**

REVENUES:

1100-294-504410	2011 Public Safety Realignment	\$	9,000.00
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TOTAL REVENUES:		\$	9,000.00
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EXPENDITURES:

1100-294-2325	Contract Services	\$	9,000.00
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TOTAL SERVICES AND SUPPLIES		\$	9,000.00
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TOTAL OTHER CHARGES		\$	-
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TOTAL EXPENDITURES:		\$	9,000.00
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NET REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES:		\$	-
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November 4, 2014



Vikki Bernstein, Founder
Holly Scaglione, MSW,
Associate



Terri Jennings, Ph.D.
Founder
Licensed Psychologist
PY 6802FL

"Within the Equine Program, our equine-assisted counseling consists of a hands-on-approach which encompasses "experiential learning." Based on the belief that people learn best by direct and purposeful contact with their learning experiences, (West-Smith, 2000; Priest and Gass, 1997), experiential learning is proving to be more effective than some other traditional behavioral change approaches with at-risk populations."

Dear Chief Damiano:

We are requesting financial assistance to implement an introductory program for probationers on the specialized AB109 caseloads. The Program will address specific criminal behaviors and criminal thinking, utilizing Equine Assisted Growth and Learning. I am collaborating with several other, local, Certified Equine Assisted Growth Professionals in this area, to provide this program to Humboldt County. Siskiyou County and Modesto County are utilizing this modality to augment other treatment and to assist offenders in recognizing behaviors that potentially place the community, their families and themselves at risk. There is evidence based research on the effectiveness of using horses as tools for successful outcomes.

The program will consist of two, 2 ½ hour sessions per week; with a total of sixteen sessions. The activities build upon each other and become progressively challenging to address key criminal thought processes and behaviors. The cognitive-behavioral intervention we have designed focuses on increasing several key components including development of: respect for boundaries, compassion, frustration tolerance, culpability, life skills, peer pressure, self-esteem, a sense of accomplishment, honesty and empathy. The intervention also focuses on decreasing: manipulation, bullying, aggression and criminal/antisocial thinking patterns. Substance abuse and thoughts and behaviors related to addiction and recidivism will be a constant focus.

The number of participants for this introductory program should range from 12 to 15 individuals.

We will be assessing changes in criminal thinking patterns over the course of the program as well as looking for associations between participation in the intervention and recidivism to determine the outcomes of this introductory program. Additionally, we have begun collaboration with both Modesto County Probation and Siskiyou County Probation. Siskiyou County Probation has already shared their research findings collected to date which documents an approximate 40 percent reduction in probation revocations (vs. 6.6 percent reduction for those who did not participate in the equine learning program). They also found that participants in the equine component had half as many felony re-arrests.

Documentation of activities and their focus, as well as outcomes, for each session, will be provided to the supervising probation officers and anyone else designated by this committee or the Probation Department.

All sessions will be conducted at Redwood Acres Fairgrounds in a covered arena. This program does not involve riding or require any horse experience.

The cost for this introductory program includes facilitation by two or more certified practitioners of equine assisted growth and learning, insurance, rental of arena space, transportation of horses, pre, post and follow-up assessments, data entry, analyses and a detailed report of findings. In addition, the cost includes provision of over forty hours of Equine Assisted Growth and Learning to each participant. Discussion/Process Groups follow each activity.

The amount requested is \$9,000.00.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Vikki Bernstein

Certified Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Professional with fifteen years practice in this field.

Terri Jennings, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychologist (PY802 FL)

Certified Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Professional with twelve years practice in this field.

Budget and Budget Justification

TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED **\$9,000**

PERSONNEL

Facilitators : Vikki Bernstein, B.A. Counseling, Specialization Criminology \$2225
Terri Jennings, Ph.D. Counseling Psychology \$2225

Vikki Bernstein will be responsible for supervising the day to day operations of the project. Specifically she will be responsible for the financial operations, communication with the Probation Department and continued collaboration with Siskiyou County Probation Department, their equine based program and collaboration with Humboldt State University's Social Work Department.

Vikki Bernstein and Dr. Jennings will be responsible for conducting all assessments, equine assisted learning sessions, documenting progress and providing crisis intervention as needed.

Dr. Jennings will be responsible for data management, data analyses and preparation of research findings.

Associates: Holly Scaglione, M.A., MSW and other associates as needed. \$1000
Associates will be utilized to help facilitate sessions and oversee safety as needed.

Personnel Total \$5450

OFFICE SUPPLIES

General Office Supplies (i.e., file folders, pens, etc.) \$120
Computer Supplies (i.e., paper, ink, electronic storage, etc.) \$300

Office Supplies Total \$420

CLIENT RELATED EXPENSES

Snacks/Drinks (provided at each session) \$480
Equine Liability Insurance \$250

Client Related Expenses Total \$730

HORSE EXPENSES

Rental of Horses (3 to 4 horses per session)	In Kind Donation
Arena Rental for 16 sessions	\$1,600
Horse Transportation	\$800
Equipment for sessions (jumps, balls, cones, etc.)	In Kind Donation
Horse Expenses Total	\$2400

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

Personnel

Funding is requested in the amount of \$5450 to cover the salaries of the facilitators and associates. Responsibilities for each member of the team have been described in the proposed budget. All team members will be working on a part-time basis.

Office Supplies

Funding is requested in the amount of \$420 to cover office supplies including paper, file folders, ink, etc. needed for record keeping, printing assessment materials, progress reports and handouts for participants.

Client Related Expenses

Funding is requested in the amount of \$730 to cover the costs of snacks and drinks to be served at each session and liability insurance. We have found over the years that serving a small snack at each session helps clients to transition from their arrival into the group curriculum for the day. Liability insurance is needed to be in compliance with the standards of our accrediting agencies (PATH, EAGALA and OK Corral).

Horse Expenses

Redwood Equine Partners and Healing Strides Psychotherapy, Inc. will provide all equines and equipment for each session as an in kind donation. We are requesting funding in the amount of \$2400 to cover the cost of the arena rental and transportation of the horses from their farm to the arena at Redwood Acres.